

Ratified

St Andrew's C E Primary School

London Road, Headington,

Oxford, OX3 9ED

Telephone: 01865-762396

www.st-andrews-pri.oxon.sch.uk

governors@st-andrews-pri.oxon.sch.uk



We believe that 'Everyone is different. Everyone is special. Everyone is our neighbour'. As Jesus taught us to love unconditionally, so we strive to nurture respect for all; to provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that considers the individual; and to care for the intellectual, social and spiritual well-being of our whole school community - encouraging positive engagement with the wider world, as affirmed through our school values and parable of the Good Samaritan.

Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God ..." and, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Luke 10:27

Our inclusive values and ethos shape everything we do. Our school policies give structure to the community we are building, where diversity is celebrated and where children of all faiths, and none, benefit from the very best start in education.

**Meeting of the Full Governing Body
held on Thursday 12th March at 7 pm at the school.**

Present:

James Carter (JC)	Co-opted Governor
Michael Dent (MD)	Co-opted Governor
Sarah Haden (SH)	Parent Governor
Jo Holmes (JH)	Staff Governor, Head
Omar Nawaz (ON)	Parent Governor
Amanda Robertson (AR)	Parent Governor - Chair
Jennifer Strawbridge (JS)	Foundation Governor
Chris Smowton (CS)	LA Governor

In attendance: Lucy Dickinson (**LD**) Clerk
Kelly Holden-White (**KH-W**) Prospective Co-opted Governor

The meeting was quorate throughout (8 Governors were present out of 12 in post).

		ACTION
1.& 2.	Welcome and Apologies for absence AR welcomed Governors to the meeting and Governors introduced themselves to KH-W . Apologies were received and accepted from Aarti Basnyat (AB - Parent Governor), Emma Clanchy (EC - Staff Governor), Emma Hopegood Jones (EJ - Ex-officio Foundation Governor) and Elizabeth Hurran (EH - Foundation Governor). The meeting started at 7.05pm.	
3.	Notified Business: none.	
4.	Pecuniary interests and Declarations: none declared for this agenda.	
5.	Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2026 AR went through the minutes of the meeting dated 5 February 2026, which were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. AR marked the minutes as signed on Governor Hub. LD to send ratified version to Jessica Simmons for uploading to website.	LD - done
6.	Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda: none	

Signed..... Dated.....

<p>7/8.</p>	<p>Head’s report, SEND White Paper, School Development Plan and Self-Evaluation Form</p> <p>JH highlighted the many activities since the last report, as well as the positive visit from the School Improvement Partner. She also explained the three principal development areas and the current focus and progress on these:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oracy – this has been supported by Brookes University with use of videoing, additional speech and language support and a focus on oracy in the Maths curriculum. Everything is working well but taking time to embed. Staff would like more training. This area will continue to be an SDP focus next year. 2. Learning support – the move of the Deputy Head into the Acting SENCo role has been effective. There has been lots of support with visits from advisors into school and staff visits to the Frank Wise Special School (St Andrew’s allocated partner school for the Enhanced Pathways project). An internal appointment has been made for TA support in the Nest . This area will also continue to be an SDP focus for next year. 3. Personal development – pupil leadership is very purposeful and effective with the school council having recently visited the City Council where they asked lots of interesting questions. The woodland play area is progressing well. The school is waiting for a SIAMs inspection. <p>Admissions and attendance – there are spaces available in Reception and Year 3, as well as two in Year 6 which will not be filled. Numbers per year group seem to mirror those seen in other local schools. Attendance has remained broadly the same as in the previous HT report (96.6%), although the school is now ranked higher at 23 out of 242 schools.</p> <p><i>Q. How often is this data produced?</i></p> <p><i>A. Twice a month. We know where there are issues and continue to work with individual families appropriately.</i></p> <p><i>Q. Given the proposed changes in EHCPs in the recent SEND White Paper, do you have a feel for how many of the EHCPs would be retained under the new guidelines?</i></p> <p><i>A. Yes, JH feels that the school does have an idea – some EHCPs are focused on educational needs without concomitant health issues (evidenced through less involvement of other external agencies). JH does feel that Year 6 is a very bad time to reassess EHCPs in the proposed way due to the added complexities of upcoming transition to Secondary school. Some children with social issues might be more likely to find their group in a larger setting, and the level of parental involvement also has an impact.</i></p> <p>Equalities/behaviour</p> <p><i>Q. Have any of the incidents reported (2 racist incidents) verged towards anything which might indicate a need for Prevent involvement, perhaps with consideration of the current international tensions?</i></p> <p><i>A. It would be difficult to refer on the basis of one incident – staff need to look at the wider picture and thought processes. These incidents were discussed in detail at TLIS and JH feels that they are indicative of lack of understanding rather than anything more troubling. The focus has been on remaining low key and dealing with things in an age-appropriate way. These two instances have remained isolated incidents.</i></p> <p><i>Q. Given that the partner school offers provision for children with learning disabilities, is St Andrew’s getting any support with other areas?</i></p>
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	<p><i>A. The Enhanced Pathways provision means that we are part of a network, so it is possible to make other links outside the allocated partner. Governors discussed a number of other special schools and their specialisms and noted that the linking approach is very current and in line with the White Paper. JH added that St Andrew's tries not to go down the route of sending children to other alternative provision – this is both more expensive, requires transport and also raises Safeguarding and quality assurance issues.</i></p> <p><i>Q. The White Paper talks about adding more capacity for children to be catered for by specialist provision within the school – how would this work with both space and staffing in the Nest?</i></p> <p><i>A. It is not yet clear how much additional money would come into the school. The Enhanced Pathways is currently a three-year project. EHCPs do not come with full funding for a full-time staff member, but the Enhanced Pathways grant does top this up to cover a teacher and a TA. However, this cannot be scaled up indefinitely and there would also be space issues with adding many more children (as well as challenges in managing different needs and behaviours in a small environment). The paper talks about 'targeted' and 'targeted plus' – we may be able to have further additional spaces and set these up to be age/developmentally appropriate.</i></p> <p>There was further discussion about encouraging people to respond to the consultation as well as some concerns about whether responses will be analysed by AI and how to ensure that important messages and experiences are fed in.</p> <p><i>Q. The paper also refers to the requirement for schools to join a Trust to gain support and share resources – do we have any thoughts about how to manage this?</i></p> <p><i>A. JH reminded Governors that Windmill Primary is getting a new Head but thought that the Wood Farm Head may take a lead on this. One option could be to approach the Local Authority to ask if they would be willing to take on the role for some of the extant Maintained schools. Governors and the school remain committed to making the best decision on behalf of the school community and not feeling pressured into joining a Trust with which we do not feel comfortable.</i></p> <p><i>Q. Has there been any further communication about the proposed family hubs and how these will be accessed by schools who are not directly involved?</i></p> <p><i>A. No further news at this time, and JH noted that there are a large number of hubs for different areas which the school could join and a need to focus on those areas in the SDP and which allow beneficial partnerships, ideally with reasonably local schools. There are already opportunities at other schools, e.g. for parents to attend courses on different days.</i></p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Budget monitoring: MD outlined the positive current position in the context of the large (£296k) carry-forward and the need to demonstrate that future spending is planned. The initial budget for the year had a £110k in-year deficit which felt a little too high for comfort. The last FPP meeting had the P9 figures (to December 2025) and this had decreased to £89k – SEND and Enhanced Pathway funding continues to come in to offset spending. There are no major concerns at this time. The committee also considered the first draft of the next budget which is currently for two years (compared to five for the previous one) – this is expected to change for full consideration in April.</p> <p><i>Q. Is a two-year budget due to uncertainty with the County reorganisation?</i></p>	

	<p><i>A. MD thought income should still be based on the national formula and that while five-year predictions are unlikely to be accurate, three years would be preferable. JH said she will be looking at P11 on Monday.</i></p> <p><i>Q. Is there any concern that costs may exceed income in the medium term?</i></p> <p><i>A. We are not allowed to submit a non-balanced budget, so if concerns arise, these will need to be addressed. We are not looking at any unusual costs at this point.</i></p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Academy discussion: nothing further to discuss (see item 7 page 3).</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Reports from committees and Governors with special responsibilities:</p> <p>11.1 Teaching Learning Inclusion – draft minutes had been circulated, and SH outlined the main focus areas, noting that the alignment with the White Paper is positive. The racist incidents had been discussed in depth and consideration given to how to support children’s learning in this area. Several policies were reviewed with some themes to the changes made. The PHSE and RSE curricula have significant overlap and wording for the RSE policy was carefully considered.</p> <p><i>Q. Are any schemes used for PHSE or RSE?</i></p> <p><i>A. No – the approach is very bespoke but with occasional units and resources from a variety of sources. Each year group has a special unit, and links are made with the behaviour and relationships policy including restorative conversations. The curriculum is both balanced and also includes revisiting of topics as children grow up.</i></p> <p><i>Q. How many parents choose to remove their children from these lessons?</i></p> <p><i>A. JH could only think of one case in 9-10 years. It was noted that the option to remove children is well publicised so the fact that families do not choose to do this is positive.</i></p> <p>The positive outcome of the SIP was noted and had been highlighted by Governors in a recent newsletter, with a good response from parents.</p> <p>11.2 Finance Personnel Premises (including H&S and Well-being) – minutes to be circulated. The committee had looked at the ongoing Parent Pay issues and migration to Bromcom. A refund has been received from Parent Pay to cover part of the work.</p> <p>The decision to stop purchasing staff absence insurance two years ago continues to be financially positive and it was agreed to reconfirm this approach.</p> <p>The annual review of the catering contract was carried out, with some improvements noted.</p> <p>Premises – there has been progress with the development of the Woodland play area and some work on toilets. After concerns at the last FGB meeting regarding the empty Co-op site, investigations had shown no evidence of rodents on the school site. The Co-op site remains empty with security still a concern.</p> <p>Personnel – covered in the HT report. The committee discussed staff retention, particularly of experienced staff – but this was not felt to be an issue at this time.</p> <p>Heat pump – the pump has now been connected. A new electricity meter will need to be installed in the Easter holidays. CS also noted that the school should be receiving some income for excess solar energy exported to the grid – he is investigating this. JH to check on electricity supplier and CS to follow up and summarise in an email. The potential for further solar could also be investigated.</p> <p>11.3 Safeguarding subcommittee: JH and JC met prior to the FGB meeting – minutes to follow. The actions arising from the lockdown drill are all complete. The SCR was checked and the question of enhanced DBS checks for volunteers</p>	<p>JH, CS</p>

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	<p>was raised – is this required if volunteers are not in unsupervised contact with children or given access to confidential records? JC is investigating.</p> <p>All policies including bespoke appendices for particular school contexts were considered – Turn It On to be contacted for advice.</p> <p><i>Q. Do DBS checks need to be updated?</i></p> <p><i>A. No, although we may have some concerns about new issues arising and the authorities not contacting the school (as they would for a staff member).</i></p> <p><i>Q. Are staff ones updated regularly?</i></p> <p><i>A. No, this is only done after a break in service. KH-W also mentioned the possibilities of self-declarations or using the annual update service.</i></p>	
12.	Chair's items: AR informed Governors that LD will be stepping down as Clerk at the end of the summer term. Possibilities for a handover will be discussed once Governor Services have appointed a replacement.	
13.	Head's items: none. AR asked about the fencing around the Co-op site which looked rather unstable in high winds and noted that a staff member had raised concerns – JH to investigate due to the proximity to the school.	JH
14.	<p>Governor matters</p> <p>Vacancies – one parent vacancy which has been advertised several times and possible candidates approached. The possibility of advertising at the upcoming parents evenings was discussed – these are on the 25 and 26 March (3.30 – 6 pm): JH to send round a schedule and governors to sign up if they are able to cover some of the times.</p> <p>Co-opted vacancies – a short bio of KH-W had been circulated prior to her attendance at the meeting. She confirmed that she was still willing to stand. Governors recognised the useful skills and experience she will bring to the role and agreed to her appointment. LD to update Governor Hub and send introductory information, and school to start the necessary paperwork (DBS etc).</p> <p>The Governor effectiveness exercise was discussed with Governors being encouraged to look out for any training in areas which they felt would be beneficial.</p>	JH LD, school
15.	Governor training: none undertaken since the last meeting. OCC training program is available via Governor Hub: https://app.governorhub.com/s/oxgs/training	
16.	Governor visits: JS did a Pupil Premium visit, report to be written. She and JH discussed the policy and how to include PPplus, as well as the decoupling of this area from SEND on the website to ensure that parents are not discouraged from applying for support. SH will be coming in to carry out a school walk and AB is continuing to do weekly reading in Reception.	JS SH
17.	Headington Partnership: covered in item 7.	
18.	<p>Discussion: what decisions have been made which further the aims and vision of the school?</p> <p>Discussed SEND provision and the White Paper and considered support for pupils with different needs.</p> <p>Welcomed a new governor and considered governor effectiveness.</p> <p>Considered environmental improvements for the school.</p>	
19.	Review of items for next meeting (30 April 2026): Budget	

The meeting finished at 8.50pm

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